

MAY 18 2006

4292-101

This responds to the April 18, 2006 Office Action in the above-identified U.S. patent application, wherein a restriction requirement was imposed against previously pending claims 1-40 of the application, as between:

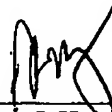
- Species I, directed to the embodiment(s) shown in Figs. 1-3, incorporating a pin from either Figs. 4-5 or Figs. 10-11; and a retaining member from either Figs. 6-7 or Figs. 8-9.
- Species II, directed to the embodiment(s) shown in Figs. 12-13.
- Species III, directed to the embodiment(s) shown in Fig. 14.

In response to the requirement that applicants select a pin embodiment and corresponding retaining member embodiment to be used with said pin embodiment and with the generic first and second components, applicants hereby elect as the pin embodiment the locking pin shown in FIGS. 4 and 5, and applicants hereby elect as the retaining member embodiment the retaining element shown in FIGS. 6 and 7.

In response to the requirement under 35 USC 121 that applicants elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits, applicants hereby elect Species I from the foregoing listing of Species I-III. In response to the requirement for a listing of all claims readable on the elected species, applicants hereby identify the claims readable on elected Species I as claims 1-40.

It therefore is requested that the examination of the application be carried out, consistent with the foregoing elections and response.

Respectfully submitted,



Steven J. Hultquist
Reg. No. 28021
Attorney for Applicants

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**INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY/
TECHNOLOGY LAW**
Phone: (919) 419-9350
Fax: (919) 419-9354
Attorney File No.: 4292-101

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